

Reedy Creek Park & Nature Preserve

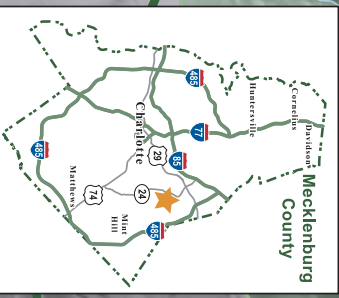
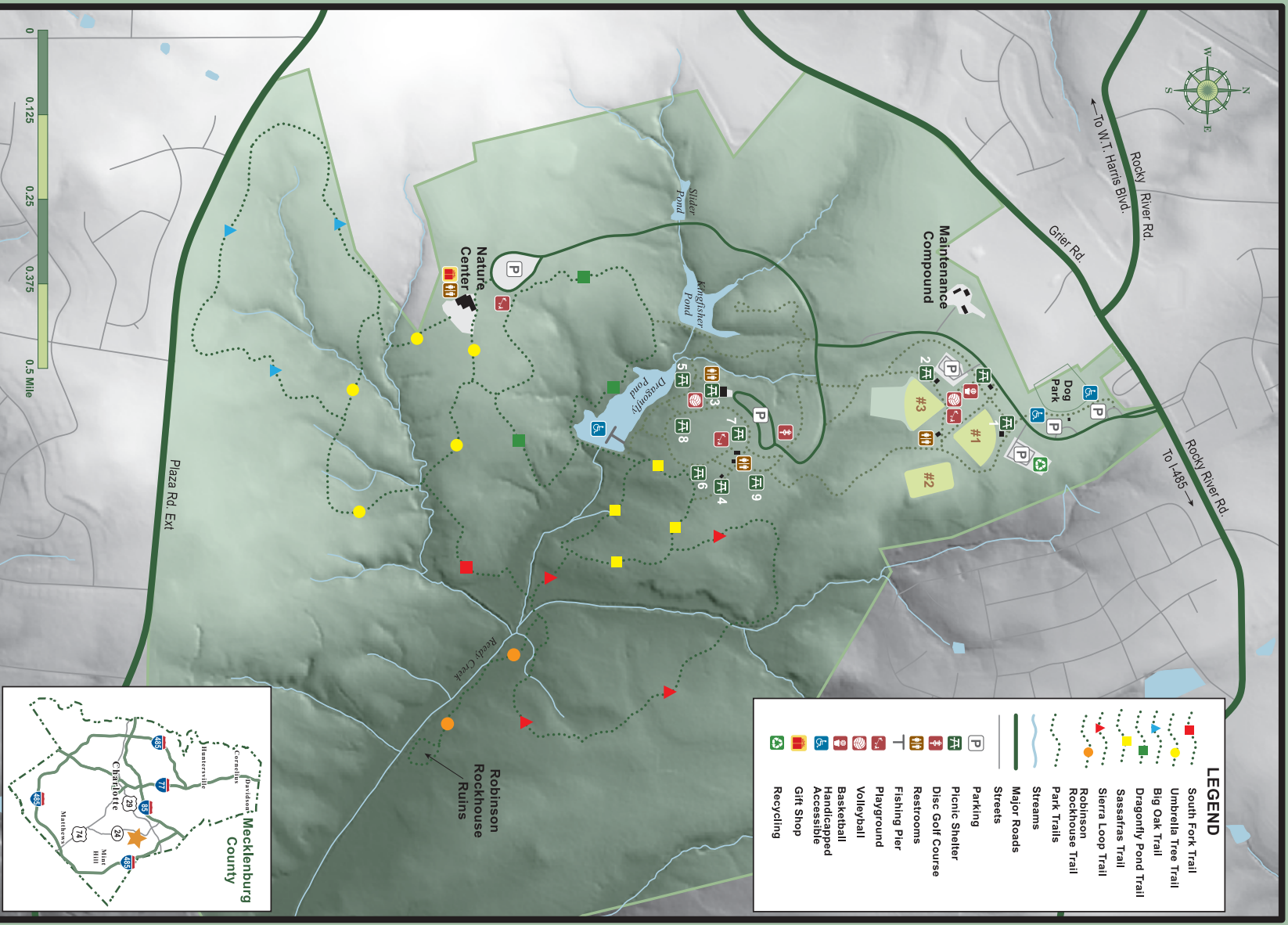


Reedy Creek Park
Northeast Park District
Nevin Community Park
6000 Statesville Road
Charlotte, NC 28269
704.336.8866



**Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation**
*The Natural Place
to Be...*

Reedy Creek Nature Preserve
2900 Rocky River Road
Charlotte, NC 28215
704.432.6460
www.parkandrec.com/Reedy



Reedy Creek Park \ Nature Preserve

Nature Center

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Facebook page - <http://bit.ly/Reedy>

Hours of Operation

Reedy Creek Park and Nature Preserve

Open Daily 7:00 a.m. until sunset

Reedy Creek Nature Center

Monday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed

Thanksgiving and Christmas Day

Directions

Traveling I-85 to or from Charlotte

Follow I-85 to Exit 45-A (East W.T. Harris Blvd.)

Travel on East W.T. Harris Blvd. to the 4th stoplight

and turn left onto Rocky River Rd. Follow

Rocky River Rd. for approximately 1/2 mile,

turn left at the spotlight, and then just past the

fire station turn right into Reedy Creek Park and

Nature Preserve.

Reedy Creek Park & Nature Preserve Map

Facilities

Reedy Creek Park

- Reedy Creek Park is 116 acres
- Numerous active and passive recreational opportunities and education
- Picnic shelters and grills
- 2 playgrounds
- 18-hole disc golf course
- Fishing pier
- Off-leash dog park
- Athletic fields and courts

Reedy Creek Nature Preserve

- Reedy Creek Nature Center Preserve protects over 727 acres of natural, forested habitats
- Mixed pine and hardwood forests, open fields, lakes and streams
- Historical significance with cabin ruins and remains of the Robinson Rockhouse



Over 10 miles of hiking trails offer outdoor enthusiasts the opportunity to explore a variety of terrains while enjoying scenic views of the small lakes, forests, fields, streams and wildlife.

Reedy Creek Nature Center

- Located in the Nature Preserve
- Exhibit hall and gift shop
- Bird viewing area
- Live animals
- Backyard hab-itat garden with outdoor composting area



The Preserve offers a variety of free and low cost public programming from children's birthday parties and summer camps, to natural and cultural history hikes and special events.

Hiking Trails

Umbrella Tree Trail

- 1.0 mile trail
- Moderate with some uphill and downhill sections. Passes through some of the most botanically significant areas of the Nature Preserve. Hikers have the opportunity to walk through the mature hardwood forest that contains rich flora and fauna. Large boulders dot the scenery along the trail.



Appropriately named the Umbrella Tree (*Magnolia tripetala*), the large leaves of this deciduous magnolia shade the banks of the south fork of Reedy Creek.

Big Oak Trail

- 1.0 mile trail
 - Rated easy
- Begins off of the Umbrella Tree Trail approximately 0.25 miles behind the Nature Center. Big Oak Trail parallels Plaza Road Extension at the southern limit of the Nature Preserve before connecting back to the Umbrella Tree Trail.

Dragonfly Pond Trail

- 1.0 mile gravelled, loop trail
- Moderate trail with some uphill and downhill sections Begins and ends at the parking lot of the Nature Center. Passes through hardwood forests and follows the shoreline of Dragonfly Pond. Hikers can enjoy woodland wildflowers, and aquatic wildlife such as mallard ducks, turtles and of course, dragonflies.



South Fork Trail

- 0.25 mile trail
- Moderate trail with some uphill and downhill sections.
- Begins at the Umbrella Tree Trail and ends at the Sierra Loop Trail. Passes through rich woodland areas and crosses one creek. Bird watchers and botany enthusiasts will find this trail especially rewarding.

Robinson Rockhouse Trail

- 0.5 mile trail
- Moderate Trail
- Accessed from the Sierra Loop Trail



This site was excavated by UNC Charlotte Campus archeologists. The Rockhouse is believed to have been built in 1790. An exhibit of the dig is located in the Nature Center. The ruins are on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Sassafras Trail

- 0.6 mile gravelled, loop trail
- Rated easy
- Begins behind one of the Park's picnic shelter areas. Passes through shady, upland hardwood forests of oak and hickory and provides access to the Sierra Loop Trail. Dragonfly Pond can also be accessed from this trail via a short connector.

Sierra Loop Trail

- 1.5 mile loop trail
 - Moderate trail with uphill and downhill sections
 - Begins and ends at Sassafras Trail
- Constructed by volunteers from the Central Piedmont chapter of the Sierra Club.

Fishing

Fishing is allowed in both Dragonfly and Kingfisher Ponds. Ages 16 and over are required to have a valid North Carolina fishing license in order to fish. Dragonfly Pond has an accessible fishing dock.

The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department participates in the North Carolina Fishing Tackle Loaner program. Visitors can "checkout" a rod and reel for a day, free of charge, from the Nature Center. Equipment must be returned in good condition. Fishing licenses and bait are not sold at the park.



Biking

To prevent trail erosion and limit disturbances to wild life and sensitive habitats, **bicycle and motor vehicle use in the nature preserve is limited to paved parking surfaces only.** Mountain bike trails can be found at:

- Jetton Park on Lake Norman
- Ramsey Creek Park
- Renaissance Park
- Colonel Francis Beatty Park
- North Meck Park
- US National White Water Center

In addition, the county has an extensive system of paved Greenway trails, perfect for biking. For more information go to www.parkandrec.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

A number of volunteer opportunities are available to individuals, families and organized groups at Reedy Creek Nature Center and Nature Preserve. These include, but are not limited to the following:



- trail clean-up
- animal care
- wildlife inventories
- butterfly garden
- botanical inventories
- nature photography
- educational programs
- administrative work

Educational Programs

Reedy Creek Nature Center staff develop and present a variety of environmental education and nature programs at the Nature Center for the general public, schools, teachers, and other organizations. Some of these events include:



- Weekend programs
- Hummingbird Festival
- Great Backyard Bird Count
- Ecology summer camps
- Earth Day celebration
- Big Sweep



Nature Explorer Zone

Discover what nature has to offer when we use our imagination. Play on a giant bird house, hop on the stump jump, build a fort or create your own music. Numerous play stations are set up and surrounded by natural elements as this fully shaded zone blends in with Reedy Creek Nature Center.

Reservations

Reservations for picnic shelters can be made by calling 311 or 704-336-7600, Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Several picnic shelters are fully accessible. Athletic fields can be reserved by contacting the Northeast Park District Athletic Coordinator at 704-336-8485.

Note: Athletic fields and picnic shelters can be reserved through 311. For large athletic events, schools, or university reservations please contact 704-336-8866.



Nature Preserve Rules

- For your safety, walk with a friend and stay on designated trails
- No weapons or firearms are allowed
- Hiking trails are only for pedestrians
- Bicycles and motorized vehicles are restricted to paved roads
- Collection, removal, or disturbance of any natural or cultural object is prohibited
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited (except with a valid shelter reservation and permit)
- Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet
- Children under the age of 16 are required to wear a helmet while riding bicycles, skateboards or rollerblades
- No swimming or wading is allowed
- Introduction of plants or animals to the preserve is prohibited